

Amended claims - please scan in 10/092,889

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

7. (currently amended) The hydantoin of claim 16, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl or (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl.

8. (previously presented) The hydantoin of claim 7, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is isobutyl or cyclopropylmethyl.

9. (original) The hydantoin of claim 7, wherein the carbon atom carrying the R<sup>1</sup> residue has an S configuration.

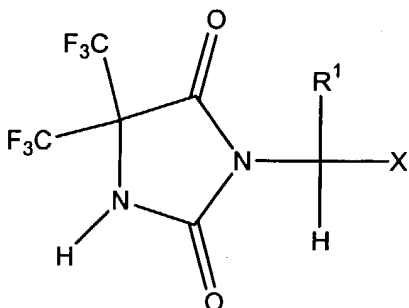
10. (currently amended) The hydantoin of claim 16, wherein ~~the carboxylic acid derivative~~ X is a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl carboxylate ester.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

13. (currently amended) The process of claim 22, wherein the reaction is carried out in an inert solvent and at a temperature from about 20°C to about 80°C.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled).

16. (New) A hydantoin having the formula:

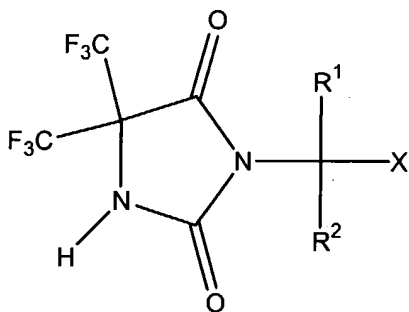


in any stereoisomeric or tautomeric form,

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted residue selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkynyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)-aryl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)-aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl,

wherein X is COOH, a metal salt of COOH, an ammonium salt of COOH, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl carboxylate ester, a benzyl carboxylate ester, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CHO, or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or a salt or derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is an ester, an amide, a nitrile, an aldehyde or a hydroxymethyl group.

17. (New) A hydantoin having the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted residue selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkynyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)-aryl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)-aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl,

wherein X is COOH, a metal salt of COOH, an ammonium salt of COOH, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl carboxylate ester, a benzyl carboxylate ester, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CHO, or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or a salt or derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is an ester, an amide, a nitrile, an aldehyde or a hydroxymethyl group.

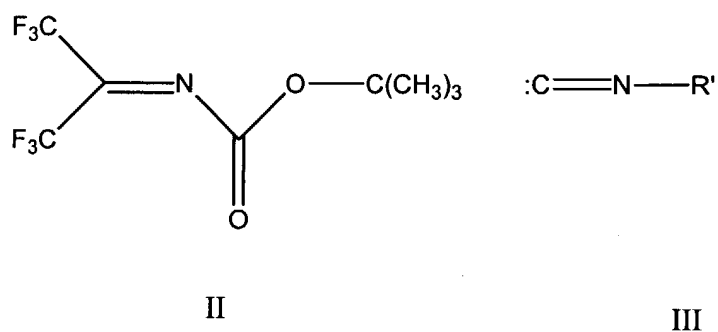
18. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 16, wherein X is COOH, ~~or a salt thereof~~ a metal salt of COOH, or an ammonium salt of COOH.

19. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 17, wherein X is COOH ~~or a salt thereof~~ a metal salt of COOH, or an ammonium salt of COOH.

20. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 16, wherein X is ~~an ester or an amide~~ a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl carboxylate ester, a benzyl carboxylate ester, or -CONH<sub>2</sub>.

21. (New) The hydantoin according to claim 17, wherein X is ~~an ester or an amide~~ a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl carboxylate ester, a benzyl carboxylate ester, or -CONH<sub>2</sub>.

22. (New) A process for preparing a hydantoin according to claim 17, which comprises reacting the compound of formula II with a compound of formula III



wherein R' is -C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-X',

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted residue selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkynyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)-cycloalkyl-, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)-aryl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)-aryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl, and

wherein X' is selected from the group consisting of ~~a carboxylic acid ester, an amide, a nitrile, an aldehyde and a hydroxymethyl group,~~ a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl carboxylate ester, a benzyl carboxylate ester, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CHO, or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH.

23. (new) The hydantoin of claim 17, wherein ~~the carboxylic acid derivative~~ X is a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl carboxylate ester.